

**(43) International Publication Date**  
**17 February 2005 (17.02.2005)**

**PCT**

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/015470 A1**

**(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>:** **G06F 17/60**

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**(21) International Application Number:**  
PCT/US2004/018933

**(81) Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

(22) International Filing Date: 15 July 2004 (15.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

**(30) Priority Data:**  
60/487,191 15 July 2003 (15.07.2003) US

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**(84) Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

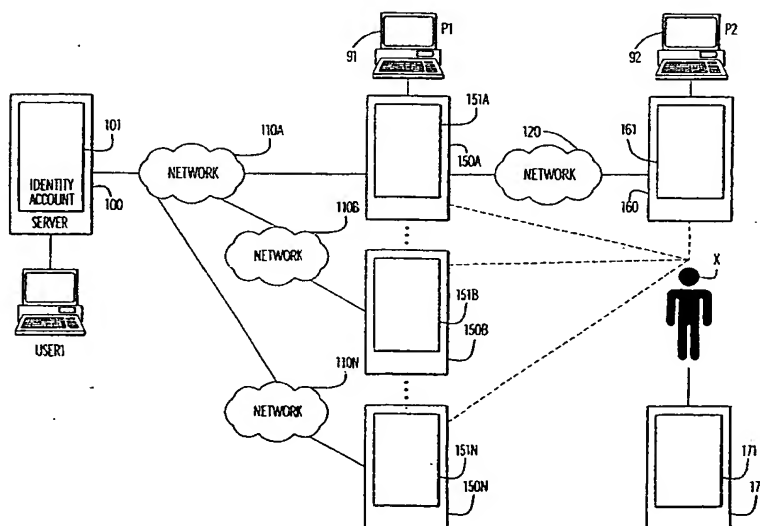
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**Published:**  
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SOCIAL NETWORK OF IDENTITIES AND QUERY METHOD THEREFOR



(57) **Abstract:** The method of gathering information within a social network of identities in which people or other identities have social relationships with one another, such as personal or business relationships, and each person has an identity account (101) containing information about that person. The identity accounts reside on identity servers (150A, 150B, 150N) connected by way of a computer network (110A, 110B, 110N). Information, such as address and telephone information, is held in each person's identity account (101). The identity accounts (101) can be queried based on the social relationships to find information. One person can query a second person's contact information. The second person can then query others known to that second person for the information. Electronic contracts embody agreements between the people in the social network, specify the terms and conditions for using data in the identity accounts, and can limit the information returned to the person making the query.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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